

STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

February 19, 2009

Senator Toni Harp (D-New Haven)
Co-Chair Appropriations Committee
Representative John Geragosian (D-New Britain)
Co-Chair Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Harp and Rep. Geragosian,

As you are well aware, the state Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) is projecting deficits of \$3.97 billion for Fiscal Year 2010 and \$4.71 billion for Fiscal Year 2011. Governor Rell's administration is estimating that these projections are substantially lower: \$2.9 billion for FY 2010 and \$3.1 billion for FY 2011. The difference is approximately \$2.6 billion.

In addition, OFA estimates that the federal stimulus bill that was passed by Congress and signed by President Obama has less money designated for Connecticut than Governor Rell included in her proposed biennial budget. The difference is nearly \$100 million in each year of the biennium.

Therefore, the projected deficit is \$2.8 billion greater than the governor's budget recognizes.

Governor Rell has said there will be no new taxes to balance the budget. In order for us to fully understand what scenarios would be necessary to close this gap within the governor's parameters, we are asking that you identify a total of \$2.8 billion in cuts as options for the next biennial budget: \$2 billion in new cuts for FY 2010 (the cuts must roll forward for FY 2011), and an additional \$800 million in cuts for FY 2011.

We respectfully request that you report to us no later than Monday, March 9th.

Very truly yours,

Donald E. Williams, Jr.

Senate President Pro Tempore

Martin M. Looney Senate Majority Leader Christopher G. Donovan Speaker of the House

Denise W. Merrill House Majority Leader